

Your
Seattle
City Light

Memorandum

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DATE : October 18, 1979
TO : Robert Murray, Superintendent
FROM : Carole V. Coe, Director, Administrative Services
SUBJECT: PCB in Lighting Ballasts

Our Safety Unit has been in touch with the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Washington Industrial Safety and Health Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency in order to ~~clarify the regulations related to lighting ballasts containing PCB.~~

Apparently there are no regulations that classify this alleged problem as a health hazard. What precipitated the EPA's position, as referred to in Mr. Lowthian's October 8, 1979 memorandum to you that lighting ballasts containing PCB are a health hazard, was a study and a written report (EPA-600/4-79-022) which cover some sources of PCBs in indoor air, including the release of PCBs from fluorescent light ballasts. Mr. Evert of the Toxicology Unit of the EPA has agreed to contact the originator of this study in order to put the problem, if any, in its proper perspective.

The Safety Unit also spoke to Bob Bach of Pete Bach Electric, Chicago, Illinois, the national distributor for the lighting ballast we are now using. Mr. Bach advised Lee Peha that this alleged problem had never been brought to their attention. He felt that as the EPA had not established any regulations on the disposal of these units and that, in fact, they did allow the user to dispose of them along with other garbage, the problem, if any, has not yet been identified.

With your permission, we would like to suggest that the change-over that you requested in a recent memorandum be delayed until we hear from Mr. Evert. It could be an extremely costly material and labor project that could encompass all of City Light property.

Engineering made the following estimate of labor and material costs, if this change-over were to be accomplished in the City Light Building only:

4600 ballasts @ \$11.00 each	\$50,600.00
2300 hours of labor @ \$16.315	<u>35,525.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$88,125.00</u>

LP:kk

RECEIVED

OCT 19 1979

cc: Henault
Rockey
Webb
Peha
File